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December 2017

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Dear Friends,

We're happy to share our newsletter for the month of December 2017. We were lucky to get an opportunity to host a public talk by Dr.Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, who shared an honest reflection on the challenges facing peace and reconciliation in the world today. This year the Kathleen Gerardi Awards were given to seven children at the cultural afternoon which was followed by a mentoring workshop for boys. Supported by our staff, community members demanded basic amenities from the municipality. All this and more in this issue. Thank you, for being a friend, an ally in this journey towards changing children's lives. We really appreciate you taking the time to read our newsletter.



### Conversations with Dr.Rajmohan Gandhi

A public talk by Dr.Rajmohan Gandhi was organised on 16 December 2017 at Indian Social Institute, New Delhi. Supported by Butterflies USA Foundation, the talk witnessed Dr.Gandhi sharing remnants of time spent with his grandfather and the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. Open and humble about his grandfather's legacy, Professor Gandhi's message was that while we all have opinions of others, we may lack knowledge of others; which gives rise to the danger of fueling unintended conflict.

Fielding questions on a range of issues from an audience consisting of children, adults, college students, academicians and social work professionals, Professor Gandhi, exhorted the audience to live to make others great, and to do so by appreciation rather than comparison. Dr. Rajmohan Gandhi's address was one of honest reflection on the challenges facing peace and reconciliation and inviting the audience to consider how they could appropriate non-violent protest to effect change in their own communities.

Alongside these maxims, Professor Gandhi's final advice was the same as his grandfather's advice to post-partition India. In order to bridge existing divides, we will need to listen to each other, empathise with each other and recognise the need to move forward together.

Our Butterflies Broadcasting Children also captured his opinions on a variety of other issues facing children which can be listened to [here](#).

*Dr.Rajmohan Gandhi was a professor with the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign until 2012. He continues to teach as visiting professor at the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, and at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. He is the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi & Kasturba Gandhi. His father, Devdas Gandhi, was the managing editor of the Hindustan Times. His mother Laxmi Gandhi was daughter of Alamelu Mangalamma and C Rajagopalachari, the second Governor General of India, after Lord Louis Mountbatten.*

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### Kathleen Gerardi Memorial Awards

The Kathleen Gerardi Memorial Awards were held on 15 December 2017 along with our cultural evening. The awards which consisted of a certificate and a cash prize were given to 7 children for outstanding performance in education, sports and all other Butterflies programmes. One child could not come for the event as he was practicing for the radio programme (Butterflies Broadcasting Children). The Awards are a great source of motivation for children in Butterflies programme and they look forward to receive the award every year in December on the occasion of International Human Rights Day. The children were selected on the basis of their academic performance in formal schools and Butterflies education programme, participation in life skills programme, sports, and children's cooperatives.



### Coaching Boys into Men

A two day residential workshop was organized for boys from Butterflies programmes on 9th & 10th December 2017. Facilitated by Ms. Anjana Matta, the workshops witnessed sessions conducted to help children develop an understanding of gender, sexuality and masculinity and their impact on their lives. The boys were also given an orientation on their bodies and how to keep their bodies healthy.



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### Training the Trainers

#### Training of Anganwadi Workers in Child Protection

A one day training was organised for staff of Anganwadis (mother and child care centre - a programme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India). Almost 25 participants were oriented to the child protection mechanisms, the latest Acts, ChildLine 1098 and their role in its effective implementation.



### Demanding Basic Amenities from the Local Government

An interface meeting was held with the Chairman of Members of the Wards Committee (Central Zone) & Councilor Mr.Rajpal Singh, at Okhla Children's Development Centre (CDC) on 20th December 2017. Members of the Child Social Protection Committee (CSPC) raised issues like the absence of street lights in the roads and toilets, making it unsafe for women & children. Members also raised the issue of the lack of maintenance of the children's park and the drainage system. Mr.Rajpal took cognizance of all the issues and assured speedy action into their grievances.



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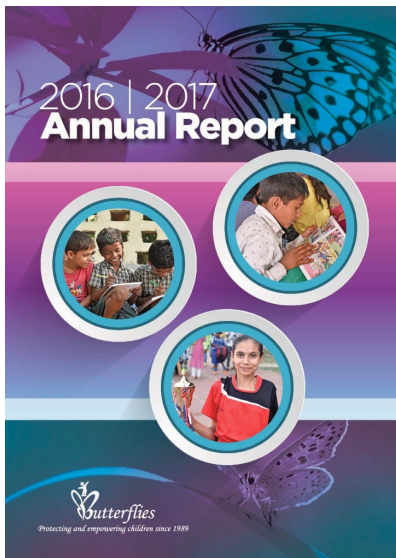
[New App for SMC Members](#)

Meeting with SMC Management Committees (SMC) members was organized by the Education Department, Government of Delhi on 26th December 2017. The meeting was presided over by the Chief Minister of Delhi, Shri Arvind Kejriwal and the Education Minister, Shri Manish Sisodia. The meeting which witnessed a participation of almost 16,000 SMC members also witnessed the launch of a new SMC app which will enable SMC members of any zone to share their feedbacks, ideas, suggestions, meeting minutes with the education department directly.



### Butterflies in Uttarakhand

The Department of Education, Uttarakhand Government organised a cultural programme for children in Dehradun and Udham Singh Nagar. Titled Sapno Ki Udaan, the program witnessed 18 of our children participating and winning in different sports and cultural events.



### Butterflies' Annual Report 2016-17

Butterflies' released its Annual Report for the year 2016-17. The report summarises our efforts during the year (01 April 2016 to 31 March 2017) towards building a better world for children and can be downloaded from [here](#).

This report has been designed by John Gehringer, a volunteer from USA, and we gratefully acknowledge the invaluable support of all our volunteers who help us focus and reach our mission of protecting & empowering every child.

**99 cases related to children in crisis situations were reported to Butterflies ChildLine. 17 children were rescued from abusive situations. Shelter was arranged for 18 children and 5 children were restored to their families directly with the help of Police at Nizamuddin Railway Station.**

### Friends of Butterflies-

We are grateful to the Government of India, Delhi and Uttarakhand, funding agencies, corporates, NGOs and individuals who have helped us transform the lives of thousands of children for the past 27 years. [Click Here](#) to know who they are-

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Forward

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